

IN THE CLAIMS:

The following is a complete listing of claims in this application.

Claims 1-14 (canceled).

15. (previously presented) Powder product for the protection of centrifugal casting molds used for the manufacture of cast iron pipes, comprising a mixture of:

at least one inoculating alloy;

at least one strongly reducing metal that is volatile at the temperature of liquid cast iron; and

optionally inert mineral powder.

16. (previously presented) Product according to claim 15, wherein the at least one inoculating alloy comprises a mixture of a plurality of inoculating alloys.

17. (previously presented) Product according to claim 15, wherein the at least one strongly reducing metal is an element in column II of the periodic table of elements.

18. (previously presented) Product according to claim 17, wherein the at least one strongly reducing metal is an element in subgroup IIa of the periodic table of elements.

19. (previously presented) Product according to claim 18, wherein the at least one strongly reducing metal is magnesium or calcium.

20. (previously presented) Product according to claim 15, wherein the at least one strongly reducing metal comprises 0.3 to 18% by weight of the product.

21. (previously presented) Product according to claim 15, wherein the at least one strongly reducing metal is added in the form of at least one non-ferrous alloy.

22. (previously presented) Product according to claim 21, wherein the at least one non-ferrous alloy contains less than 10% by weight of Fe.

23. (previously presented) Product according to claim 22, wherein the at least one non-ferrous alloy is an SiCa alloy containing, by weight:

Si 58 - 65%; Ca 27 - 35%; Fe 2 - 7%; Al 0.4 - 2%.

24. (previously presented) Product according to claim 22, containing between 15 and 40% by weight of said SiCa alloy.

25. (previously presented) Product according to claim 19, containing between 0.5 and 2% by weight of magnesium.

26. (previously presented) Product according to claim 15, containing between 0.2 and 15% by weight of said inert mineral powder.

27. (previously presented) Product according to claim 25, wherein the inert mineral powder is selected from the group consisting of calcium fluoride, magnesium fluoride and mixtures thereof.

28. (currently amended-) Process for manufacturing a powder product for the protection of centrifugal casting molds used for the manufacture of cast iron pipes, comprising at least one inoculating alloy, at least one strongly reducing metal that is volatile at the temperature of liquid cast iron and ~~optionally~~ inert mineral powder, comprising forming a powder premix of the at least one strongly reducing metal and the inert mineral powder, and mixing the powder premix with the at least one inoculating alloy in powder form.

29. (currently amended) Process according to claim ~~27~~ 28, wherein the at least one strongly reducing metal constitutes 15 to 60% by weight of the premix.